



# U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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## ***News Advisory***

For immediate release  
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## **Constitution Subcommittee Hearing Tuesday on Pain of the Unborn**

**What:** Oversight Hearing on "Pain of the Unborn"  
**Who:** Subcommittee on the Constitution – Rep. Steve Chabot (R-Ohio),  
Chairman  
**When:** 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 1, 2005  
**Where:** 2141 Rayburn Building

*Much evidence demonstrates that the unborn child possesses the ability to experience pain from 20 weeks of gestation, if not earlier. Three states – Arkansas, Georgia, and Minnesota – currently require physicians to notify pregnant women of the availability of information the state has gathered on pain of the unborn and to provide the information to the pregnant woman upon her request. Seventy-seven percent of the individuals surveyed in an April 2004 Zogby International poll favor a law "requiring that women who are 20 weeks or more along in their pregnancy be given information about fetal pain before having an abortion."*

### **BACKGROUND...**

- ✓ Congressional legislation has been introduced (H.R. 356) that seeks "[t]o ensure that women seeking an abortion are fully informed regarding the pain experienced by their unborn child."
- ✓ Informed consent requirements, including those requiring physicians to provide women with information on pain of the unborn, are consistent with the Supreme Court's abortion jurisprudence.

### **THIS HEARING WILL...**

- ⇒ Explore the unborn child's anatomical development, physiological responses to painful stimuli, and ability to experience pain.
- ⇒ Explore the constitutionality of right to know laws requiring physicians to provide women with information on pain of the unborn.

**WITNESSES:** Dr. Sunny Anand, Arkansas Children's Hospital; Dr. Jean Wright, Professor and Chair of Pediatrics, Mercer School of Medicine; Dr. Arthur Caplan, Director, Center for Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania; and Ms. Teresa S. Collett, Professor of Law, University of St. Thomas School of Law.

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